

ETV Pilot for Indoor Air Products

Meeting Summary for the Task Force on Commercial Furniture Research Triangle Institute February 25, 1998

Background

The fifth meeting of the RTI/EPA Environmental Verification Program for Indoor Air Products, Office furniture Stakeholders was held at the Research Triangle Institute on February 25, 1998.

Action Items

1. RTI will distribute the minutes and post a summary of the minutes on the open portion of the web site.
2. A laboratory working group will be formed to complete the protocol. Led by RTI, the group will contain representatives from AQS and BIFMA. Sections of the protocol concerned with product definition, acquisition, shipping and handling will be moved to an appendix. BIFMA will be responsible for finalizing this appendix and will copyright the material. RTI will copyright only the test method.
3. A conference call will be held on March 13, 1998 with the laboratory working group to resolve details in the protocol.
4. A policy working group will be formed to discuss use of the protocol and transition to a privatized program. They will also discuss copyright issues. BIFMA member B. Lundgren will lead. Industry, RTI, EPA and public interest groups will be members.
5. The policy working group will meet at a BIFMA meeting during the week of March 23, 1998 in Denver.
6. A decision will be made by April on which furniture to test initially.
7. An initial test of the protocol will be performed in May 1998.
8. Laboratory work group will meet in the time frame of June/July to discuss lessons learned from the initial test.
9. A full test of the protocol will be performed in August 1998.
10. The next full stakeholder meeting will be held on October 27, 1998 at Grand Rapids MI.
11. Information from earlier AQS testing contained in a proprietary database would be treated on a separate track, based on agreement between AQS and their clients.

Introductions

The meeting was convened at 8:30 by D. Franke. All the attendees introduced themselves and disclosed whom they were representing at the meeting. An attendance list is provided. Stakeholder comments on the protocol and a revised protocol were distributed. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed by mail and a summary was available on the public area Web site. At the request of B. Miller, the agenda was revised to schedule the discussion of the BIFMA standard before lunch.

Update on other Indoor Air ETV Programs

D. Ensor discussed the activities for the general air filtration stakeholder group. National Air Filtration Association has plans for a filtration certification program. Currently a pilot verification test is underway. The stakeholder meeting was held on February 17, 1998. A laboratory meeting is planned for Mid May and the next stakeholder meeting will be held at the end of September.

Additional furniture emissions data

M. Black presented emissions data compiled from commercial testing. No material was distributed.

Input from consumers, architect and public interest groups

J. Davidson reported on a focus group meeting he held with design and environmental groups on November 14, 1997. Minutes of this meeting were posted on the Web Site. The findings of the meeting are that demand might be increasing for high quality data environmental data and that results need to be reported at different levels of complexity depending on the sophistication of the user. Davidson also provided copies for the stakeholders of the information Carpet and Rug Institute provides for its customers.

P. Kennedy provided a new EPA publication "Leading by Example: Two Case Studies Documenting EPA Incorporated Features into New Buildings" EPA 742-R-97-006, Dec. 1997, Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse, 202 260 1023, email: ppic@epamail.epa.gov. This document includes description of the test program conducted on furnishings including furniture to reduce the emissions of contaminants in the new headquarters building.

ETV quality management plans

N. Adams reported that EPA was developing a quality management system. The plan is currently in its second draft.

Regulatory limits for selected chemicals

N. Adams discussed a review of regulatory limits for selected chemicals. The only limits available are from occupational health. Typical indoor concentrations are much lower than these limits.

BIFMA's plans for a certification program

B. Lundgren announced plans to develop a BIFMA furniture emission standard. The BIFMA standard will build on the protocol written under the ETV program.

Discussion of the direction of the indoor air verification program

After discussion led by Sparks and Ensor, several approaches were established. It was decided to set up a laboratory working group and a policy working group. The laboratory working group will be led by RTI and will include members from BIFMA and labs. The policy working group will be led by BIFMA (Lundgren). One major issue is ownership of the copyright. The protocol may need to be divided into the test method and supporting appendices of items specific to the industry. It was agreed that BIFMA would copyright the sections of the protocol related to their standard. The working groups will issue minutes to inform the whole stakeholder group on their progress. The policy on controlling product identity needs to be developed for the pilot testing.

Chairs might be more suitable than a full office module to test the protocol during the pilot phase.

It was suggested that BIFMA might want to partner with public interest groups, such as the American Lung Association, to publicize its program.

Additional work with the existing proprietary database was discussed. Additional analysis or publication would require contract modifications between AQS and its customers. It might be more appropriate for this to be conducted with private funding.

Test Protocol

Detailed discussion of the protocol was delegated to the laboratory working group.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Meeting Attendance

Attended	Did not Attend
Nancy Adams, U. S. EPA	Bob Axelrad, U. S. EPA
Michael Baker, HPVA	Gina Baker, Kosar Ritterlmann Assoc.
Marilyn Black, Air Quality Sciences, Inc	Bill Barrett, American Seating Co.
Michel Comtois, Technitrol-Eco, Inc.	Penny Bonda, The Hillier Group
Jeff Davidson, U.S. EPA	Sharon Booker, GSA/FSS
Tom Donoghue, Global Upholstery Co., Limited	Tom Bruursema, NSF International
David Ensor, Research Triangle Institute	Susan Chapin, Burt Hill Kosar Rettlemann
Deborah Franke, Research Triangle Institute	Christina Cinalli, U. S. EPA
Fred Gordon, Herman Miller	Thomas Daily, GSA/FSS/COE
Gary Gramp, HPVA	Richard Driscoll, BIFMA
Dan Hare, Composite Panel Association	Barbara Ellison, GSA/FSS
Rob Herman, NSF International	Ron Garbrecht, Trendway Corp.
Betsy Howard, U. S. EPA	Kimberly Green-Goldborough, U. S. EPA
	Penelope Hansen, U. S. EPA

Dick Hubbard, Steelcase North America	Dan Hare, Composite Panel Assoc.
Peggy Jenkins, California Air Resources Board	Randall Helm, Steelcase
Paul Kasprzak,	Scott Hines, ICF Kaiser
Patrick Kennedy, U.S. EPA	Pauline Johnston, U.S. EPA
Scott Lesnet, Hon Industries, Inc.	Betty Leppin, Consumer Research Council
Bryan Lundgren, Haworth	Hal Levin, Levin and Associates
Keith Masterson, Kimball International	Frank Marchisello, Teknion Furniture Sys.
Brad Miller, BIFMA	Leyla McCurdy, American Lung Assoc.
Lou Newett, Knoll, Inc.	Paul Murry, Herman Miller
Deborah Prince, Underwriters Laboratories	Suzanne Roberts, U. S. EPA
Jim Raymer, Research Triangle Institute	Jeffery Schatz, GSA
Randy Ruster, Herman Miller, Inc.	Will Service, NCENR
Les Sparks, U.S. EPA	Linda Sheldon, U. S. EPA
Steve Trinkel, Kimball International	Chris Steel, S.C. Johnson
Don Whitaker, Research Triangle Institute	Gene Tatsch, Research Triangle Institute
Steve Williams, ICF Kaiser	Jeb Waldman, Cal. Dept. of Health Serv.
Jim Williams, Knoll, Inc.	Laura Wekenman, Steelcase
Pauline Johnston, U.S. EPA	
Tony Worthan, AQS, Inc	
John Young, Hampshire Research	
Jianshun Zhang, CNRC	